

10037-7/395/

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Property Acquisition Near CIA Headquarters

1. Additional property is being acquired near CIA Headquarters at Langley, Virginia, for security reasons and not because of any desire for increased land holdings per se.

2. Titles IV and V of the Military Construction Act of 1955, 59 Stat. 324, P. L. 84-161 (1955), authorized the Director of Central Intelligence to acquire land and provide for a headquarters installation "in the District of Columbia or elsewhere." However, there was not anticipated the advance in the state of the art of technical surveillance which now necessitates the acquisition of the additional tracts of land. Technical competence in this field has increased greatly in the past several years and this is not limited to visual surveillance. This was not and, we believe, could not have been reasonably foreseen at the time the building was being planned. There was no desire at that time to acquire land for which it was felt there was no genuine need.

3. Recently, a detailed survey was conducted by the CIA Office of Security in order to ascertain what if any areas are vulnerable to surveillance. The Bureau of Public Roads property and the George Washington Memorial Parkway were found to provide adequate insulation on the north and west. It is the southeast sector which is found to be vulnerable because of its private ownership and proximity to the headquarters building. This comprises the four parcels of land which General Services Administration is now seeking to acquire.

4. With the imminence of additional construction of either high-rise apartments or housing developments, it is considered imperative to take steps to protect the Agency against technical surveillance by persons whose interests are inimical to those of our

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a. Our basic desire in any case is to acquire control of the property in question, and it may not be necessary to evict the present tenants if mutually acceptable arrangements can be arrived at.

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